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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 9th September, 1901. Mr. O. A. Sayce (one of the vice-presidents) occupied the chair, and about 80 members and visitors were present.

REPORTS.

A report of the visit to the Botanical Gardens on Saturday, 17th August, was given by Mr. F. G. A. Barnard, who said that, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. F. Pitcher, Mr. C. French, jun., had kindly acted as conductor. Attention was principally devoted to the Australian plants, of which a fair number were in bloom, but the majority of the Acacias, of which the gardens contain a large variety, owing to the coldness of the season, were still in bud. Among the plants and shrubs noticed in bloom were *Acacia cultriformis*, N.S.W.; *A. baileyana*, N.S.W.; *Bauera rubioides*, Vict.; *B. sessiliflora*, Vict.; *Correa alba*, Vict.; *C. speciosa* (red variety), Vict.; *Chorizema ilicifolium*, W.A.; *Eriostemon myoporoides*, Vict.; *Epacris longiflora*, N.S.W.; *Grevillea alpina*, Vict.; *G. oleoides*, Vict.; *Hakea verrucosa*, W.A.; *Kennedyia nigricans*, W.A.; *Styphelia virgata*, Vict.; and *Thryptomene ericea*, Vict.

A report of the excursion to Sandringham on Saturday, 31st August, was given by the leader, Mr. C. French, jun., who stated that about thirty species of plants were noticed in bloom, among which were *Acacia acinacea*, *A. oxycedrus*, *A. suaveolens*, *A. longifolia*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Bossia cinerea*, *Correa speciosa*, *Clematis microphylla*, and the orchids *Pterostylis vittata*, *P. nana*, *P. curta*, *Acianthus exsertus*, and *Corysanthes pruinosa*. Several plants of the interesting Lycopod, *Phylloglossum drummondii*, were collected. Attention was also devoted to entomology. Specimens of that remarkable scale insect, *Frenchia casuarina*, which is destroying the She-oaks (Casuarinas) along the coast, were obtained, and the larvæ of several longicorn beetles taken for rearing at home. Mr. J. Stickland reported that the pond life section of the party had an interesting afternoon, a fair variety of Entomostraca being met with. Among them was one belonging to the Copepoda, which appears to be

an unrecorded species of the genus *Boeckella*, but it has not yet been thoroughly examined.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. S. Middleton Ware, 36 Riversdale-road, Hawthorn, was duly elected a member of the Club.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The chairman drew the attention of members to the exhibition of wild flowers to be held at the next meeting; also to the proposed special excursion to the Grampians on 9th October for the purpose of seeing the Grampian flora at its best.

Mr. D. Best and Mr. Geo. Coghill gave some particulars regarding the district and the best means of getting there, the latter speaking very favourably of the locality for obtaining a good series of botanical specimens in bloom.

PAPERS.

1. By Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., entitled "The Ocean Beach, Sorrento." The author gave an account of a number of observations he had made on the ocean beach at Sorrento, his remarks being accompanied by a series of lantern illustrations, among which was one showing, *in situ*, the recently discovered fossil remains of an extinct kangaroo, determined by Professor J. W. Gregory, F.R.S., as belonging to the genus *Palorchestes*.

As an illustration of the botany of the district a picture of a flowering stem of a Grass-tree, *Xanthorrhœa australis*, measuring 5 feet 10 inches in height, was shown; and in the discussion which followed Mr. J. G. Luehmann stated he was informed that the Grass-trees growing near Frankston never flowered unless fire had gone through the country, and in support of this mentioned that he had never seen these plants in flower in the Botanical Gardens.

Mr. G. Coghill expressed his doubts regarding the author's contention that the large quantities of broken shells found in certain spots was evidently the work of the natives in bygone days using the shell-fish for food, stating that if this were so the natives must have been very busy.

2. By Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., entitled "The Effect of Snow on Eucalyptus Trees." The object of this paper was to show the effect a heavy fall of snow had on the large eucalyptus trees, some being almost denuded of their upper branches through being broken off by the weight of snow. This paper was also illustrated by lantern slides.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., showed a photograph of a large Carpet Snake after having recently partaken of a heavy meal, the body being greatly distended.